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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of:  
Beach et al.

Serial No: 10/055,797

Filed: January 22, 2002

For: Methods and Compositions for RNA Interference

Attorney Docket No. GNCA-P03-007

Art Unit: 1632

Examiner: LACOURCIERE, Karen

***Hand Delivery to Examiner LACOURCIERE***

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**THIRD PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Applicants and the undersigned extend their gratitude to Examiner Lacourciere for taking the time to meet with the undersigned and Dr. Greg Hannon on June 17, 2003, and for her helpful comments and suggestions. Pursuant to that conversation, please enter the following remarks and amend the claims of the above-identified application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS**

A marked-up version of the claims showing the changes made to the claims follows the remarks section of this response.

48. (amended) A method for attenuating expression of a target gene in mammalian cells, comprising introducing into the mammalian cells a single-stranded hairpin ribonucleic acid (RNA) comprising self complementary sequences of 19 to 100 nucleotides that form a duplex region, which self complementary sequences hybridize under intracellular conditions to a target